

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 13-17 and 20 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are the only independent claims.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 2-6, 8, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim. As shown above, claim 1 has been amended to include all the features of allowable claim 2. For at least this reason, amended claim 1 is now believed clearly in condition for allowance. Claim 7 has been amended to include all the features of allowable claim 8. Amended claim 7 is now believed clearly in condition for allowance. Claim 13 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 19, and intervening claim 18, and is now believed clearly in condition for allowance.

The above amendments, which incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter in the independent claims, are believed to render moot the prior art rejections presented in the final Office Action.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Application No.: 10/649,942

Docket No.: C6735.0001

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Dated: June 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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